

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 23, 26-29 and 33-34 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, including the claims, as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Claims 20-22, 24-25, 31-32, 37-40 and 83 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Upon entry of the amendments presented herein, claims 1-19, 23, 26-30, 33-36, 41-69, 82, and 84-88 are now pending in the application.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 41-69, 82, 84, and 85 are allowed over the art of record, and that claims 20-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, incorporating the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Interview Summary

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for permitting a telephonic interview with their undersigned representative on January 23, 2007 ("the Interview"). During the Interview, the rejections of certain claims were discussed. No final agreement was reached.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)/103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 1-19, 37-40 and 86-88 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by, or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Barnes et al., U.S. Patent 5,001,184 ("the '184 patent" or "Barnes"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

However, without agreeing with the Examiner's position, claims 37-40 have been cancelled, and claim 1 has been amended to recite that the claimed article comprises first and second additives; thus, the features of prior claim 20 have been incorporated into claim 1. The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that claim 20 (and claims dependent therefrom) would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, incorporating the limitations

of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, is allowable, and that claims 2-19, 23, 26-30, 33-36, and 86-88, which depend (directly or indirectly) from claim 1, are also allowable.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is proper and the same is requested.

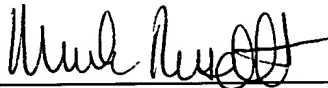
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

The undersigned requests any extension of time necessary for response. If for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**, under Reference No. 55531 (45676), Customer No. 21874.

Respectfully submitted,

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